

What is claimed is:

1 Object motion tracing method for tracing the three-dimensional motion of an object, based on the stereo image of the object concerned obtained in time series, composed of:

a selecting step for selecting tracing points corresponding to the silhouette of the object concerned in the stereo image of the object;

a sampling step for sampling from the above-mentioned stereo image the corresponding points on the silhouette of the object corresponding to respective tracing points;

a measuring step for measuring the three-dimensional coordinates of the sampled corresponding points; and

a detecting step for detecting the position/posture of the object from the three-dimensional coordinates of those respective tracing points and respective corresponding points,

wherein

the three-dimensional motion of aforesaid object is traced by continuously repeating each process from the selecting step through the detecting one toward each frame of the stereo image obtained in time series.

2. Object motion tracing technique according to Claim (1), wherein the three-dimensional geometric model of an object is used to select the tracing points on the selecting step.

A 3. Object motion tracing technique according to Claim (1) ~~or (2)~~, wherein the three-dimensional coordinates are measured by stereo vision applying stereo correspondence on the measuring step.

A 4. Object motion tracing technique according to Claim (1) ~~or (2)~~, wherein the three-dimensional coordinates are measured by monocular vision on

the measuring step.

5. A recording media wherein an object motion tracing program is recorded for tracing the three-dimensional motion of an object on the basis of the stereo image of the object obtained in time series, composed of:

a selecting step for selecting the tracing point corresponding to the silhouette of the object concerned on the stereo image of the object;

a sampling step for sampling from above-mentioned stereo image the corresponding points on the silhouette of the object corresponding to respective tracing points;

a measuring step for measuring the three-dimensional coordinates for the sampled corresponding points; and

a detecting step for detecting the position/posture of the object from respective three-dimensional coordinates of aforesaid tracing points and corresponding points,

wherein

the program for executing the tracing of the three-dimensional motion of the object by continuously repeating each process from the selecting step through the detecting one as mentioned above toward each frame of the stereo image obtained in time series.

6. A recording media according to Claim (5) above, wherein the program is recorded for executing the selection of the tracing point using the three-dimensional geometric model of an object on the selecting step.

7. A recording media according to Claim (5) ~~or (6)~~ above, wherein the program is recorded for executing the measurement of the three-dimensional coordinates by stereo vision applying stereo correspondence on the measuring step.

8. A recording media according to above Claim (5) ~~or (6)~~, wherein the program is recorded for executing the measurement of the three-dimensional coordinates by monocular vision on the measuring step.